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Identical letters dated 3 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the acts of armed aggression carried out by American forces and Kuwaiti authorities on 18 and 20 April 2000 respectively against Iraqi seamen and vessels within Iraqi territorial waters, and reaffirming Iraq's inherent right to take the necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and its territorial waters, and to demand compensation for these aggressive acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 3 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I wish to inform you that at 0230 hours on 18 April 2000, the Honduran ship *Factory/2* was subjected to an act of piracy by American naval launches in the vicinity of the port of Bakar, when a number of their crew members boarded the ship and seized it, and at 0900 hours led it away with its crew of 11 towards an unknown destination.

At 2300 hours on 20 April 2000, two Kuwaiti naval patrol boats, each with a crew of nine, wearing uniforms and armed with pistols, intercepted the launch *Zahra* in the area of Bubiyan Al-Khadir close to Khawr Abd Allah and attacked the 13 members of the crew. Uttering curses and insults, the assailants struck them with sticks and confiscated their fishing licences and service records and the launch logbook, and as a result of the attack some of the seamen suffered serious bruises.

Such incursions by American forces and Kuwaiti authorities into our territorial waters and the attack on Iraqi seamen within those waters constitute a glaring breach of the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq and an act of armed aggression which, under the most basic norms of international relations, is a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles of international law and prevailing international customs, all of which uphold renunciation of the threat or use of force against the security and independence of any State. In protesting against this aggressive conduct of American forces and Kuwaiti authorities, we demand that you intervene to put an end to such transgressions represented by the incursions into Iraqi territorial waters and the provocative acts in question. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves its full and inherent right, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and customs, to take the necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and its territorial waters, and to demand compensation for the mental harm and material damage resulting from these aggressive acts, in conformity with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq